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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>PETER McEVOY (Extn.5830).</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>ACCELERATING THE PROVISION OF RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING SERVICES TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS THE DISTRICT</b>	<b>REF: PE</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS07</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 Members are asked to approve the enclosed proposals to revise plans to improve provision for recycling and waste minimisation.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

2.1 A number of factors have prompted a review of the services provided for recycling and waste minimisation and the timetable for their implementation, including Community Scrutiny Committee's report dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006, and the strong desire for plastic recycling expressed by the public via "Ideas into Action".

2.2 This report offers proposals for Members' consideration that attempt to achieve the aspirations of members and the public in the most cost effective and manageable fashion.

## **3.0 Detail**

3.1 The Community Scrutiny Committee was asked to review the Council's Waste Management Plans in the latter part of last summer.

3.2 The Committee's final report and recommendations were made in a report dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006. A copy of the report is appended as a Background Paper.

3.3 The recommendations fit into four over-arching aspects of the service – recycling, composting, waste minimisation, publicity – and three more specific issues – wheeled bins washing, contributions from developers and provision of Civic Amenity sites in the district. This report aims to address each aspect and issue in turn.

## **Recycling.**

- 3.4 The Council's existing scheme for the fortnightly kerbside collection of paper, cans and glass (the "green box and blue bag" scheme) has now been expanded to around 93% of the district. It is hoped that this expansion will substantially satisfy the Scrutiny Committees call to accelerate the schemes implementation. The current contract ends in March 2008 and it is not possible to expand the scheme any further between now and then without incurring substantially increased costs.
- 3.5 It is proposed to subject the recycling service to a market testing exercise during 2007 in order to secure the most economic, appropriate and sustainable way forward for the Council after March 2008. It is also proposed, in view of feedback received from a range of sources including the Ideas into Action campaign, to pay particular regard to the inclusion of plastics in any new scheme and to extend the scheme over the whole of the district. This is likely to increase the service costs from 2008/9 onwards.
- 3.6 The market testing exercise will provide an opportunity to seek ideas from the market itself, to consider the range of materials to be collected for recycling, to consider the type and number of receptacles provided, etc.
- 3.7 The outcome of the market testing exercise, subject to affordability, should result in a recycling rate (BVPI 82a) of around 17% in 2008/09 (the 2004/05 upper quartile is 17.89%) compared to the current rate of 13%.

## **Composting.**

- 3.8 The Community Scrutiny Committee's recommendation is that the expansion of the "brown bins" scheme across the whole of the district, planned currently for completion in 2009/10, should be accelerated. This suggestion is welcomed but a number of factors prevent an immediate expansion to cover the whole district.
- 3.9 The Council has previously committed itself to changing from the current "open windrow" composting scheme, predominantly garden waste, to a new "in vessel" system that will accommodate kitchen waste including food leftovers. One "in vessel" facility became available to the Council in September 2006 and a second more local facility is scheduled to open in April 2007.
- 3.10 The new facility will only be capable of treating limited Tonnages in the first few months of operation as the facility goes through a commissioning period and, therefore, the expansion of the "brown bins" scheme across the whole of the district will need to be phased over a period of six months starting in April 2007 when the new facility is scheduled to open.
- 3.11 It is proposed that the completion of the expansion of the "brown bins" scheme across the district will take place in May 2008 once the whole of the district is receiving the re-tendered "dry recycling" scheme. This will ensure that when fortnightly collections begin the capacity of the black bin for residual waste will comfortably accommodate a fortnights waste for most households.
- 3.12 It is proposed that, subject to the results of the consultation taking place in regard to the pilot "in vessel" compost scheme that commenced in September 2006 in Findern, Mickleover and Stenson Fields, the compost scheme will operate throughout the year except for a period of four weeks at Easter and New Year.

- 3.13 A separate report on this agenda provides more detailed and specific proposals for Members' approval.
- 3.14 The expansion of the scheme across the whole of the district at the beginning of 2008/09 should result in a composting rate (BVPI 82b) of around 21% (the 2004/05 upper quartile is 9.80%) compared to the current rate of 12%.

### **Waste Minimisation.**

- 3.15 The Council's current policy allows residents on the compost scheme to place a sack of side refuse for collection on the week that the residual waste is collected. It is proposed, subject to the outcome of the consultation in regard to the current "in vessel" compost pilot scheme, where no side refuse is being allowed, that the concession is withdrawn as the new scheme is introduced.
- 3.16 The Council, unlike an increasing number of Councils, does not have a formal "closed bin lids" policy. It is proposed, both from a waste minimisation point of view, and also, from a health and safety perspective, that it should have such a policy. It is suggested that the appropriate time for the introduction of such a policy is May 2008 when, subject to a successful market testing exercise, the whole of the district will be receiving a kerbside recycling service that includes the collection of plastics as well as a wider range of materials that can be placed in the compost bin.
- 3.17 It is planned to submit a separate report to review all the Council's current waste management policies, including the above items, and other issues such as the circumstances for the issue of larger bins, the collection of extra waste at the Christmas / New Year period, etc., for Members' consideration before the end of the current financial year.

### **Publicity / Branding.**

- 3.18 The Derbyshire Waste Strategy recognises the need for education, awareness raising and publicising in regard to waste management issues in its Marketing Plan.
- 3.19 It is proposed to set up a small working group, to include the Council's Public Relations staff and, if considered appropriate, a Member, to develop the publicity and branding issues raised in the Community Scrutiny Committee's report and, also, to link into the Marketing Plan.

### **Wheeled Bin Washing.**

- 3.20 There are a number of contractors operating in this business. The business is regulated by the Environment Agency. It is proposed that the Council could assist residents by compiling a list of preferred suppliers that meet the Environment Agency's requirements and may be prepared to offer a discounted price on the basis of residents being referred to them by the Council.

### **Contributions from Developers.**

- 3.21 The Head of Planning Services has been asked to investigate the scope of seeking contributions from developers towards the costs of waste management and has advised that such a policy would need to be considered as part of the Local Development Framework in order to be reasonable and consistent.

### **Provision of Civic Amenity Sites.**

- 3.22 A letter has been sent to Derbyshire County Council, the Authority responsible for the provision of sites in Derbyshire, seeking an increase in the number of sites provided in South Derbyshire. No reply has been received so far.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The financial implications of the composting acceleration are allowed for in current budgets, however, despite the market testing exercise proposed, the inclusion of plastics into the dry recycling scheme is likely to result in increased revenue costs from 2008/09. Furthermore the scheme may require substantial capital investment to pay for new receptacles e.g. a new bin for every house would cost around £500,000.

### **5.0 Community Implications**

- 5.1 The Council's Waste Management plans impact directly on the whole community.

### **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 The review carried out by the Community Scrutiny Committee has helped to focus attention on Waste Management issues and to provide a platform for enhancing the services in the future.
- 6.2 These proposals go as far as practical to address the concern over two BVPI's (BVPI 82a the percentage of dry recycling and BVPI 84a the total weight of waste collected) that caused this Committee to refer these matters for the consideration of the Scrutiny Committee.
- 6.3 The proposals will raise the dry recycling performance to the brink of top quartile performance during the next financial year whilst taking a pragmatic approach towards waste minimisation.
- 6.4 The proposals accept that waste minimisation is a national and county-wide issue, as well as a local one and that our performance on this issue may not be improved radically in isolation and at reasonable cost. Consequently the proposals in this report involve practical measures to reduce waste without imposing excessive hardship to the public or excessive costs.

### **7.0 Background Papers**

- 7.1 Community Scrutiny Committee report dated 25<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Community Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> September 2006</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Chair of Community Committee</b>	
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>Councillor Ron Lane (Chair of Community Scrutiny Committee)</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Achieving Targets 2006/09 – Waste Management</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

1.1 This Committee recommends the following:

### **Recycling**

- a) Accelerate the implementation of the 'green box' scheme across the district.

*The "green box" scheme has now been expanded to around 93% of the district. The current contract for the service is due to end in March 2008. A market testing exercise has commenced to identify the best option forward for the Council.*

- b) Review the number of 'bring site' locations, in order to ensure Value For Money

*The review will be conducted as part of the above exercise.*

### **Composting**

- c) Accelerate the implementation of the 'brown bin' compost scheme across the district.

*The current plan is to implement the "brown bin in vessel" compost scheme across the whole of the district by 2009/10. The plans have been*

*accelerated, subject to Members' approval, to implement the scheme throughout the district by May 2008.*

- d) To extend the 'brown bin' (compost) collection service throughout the year, except two weeks over the Christmas period.

*The pilot scheme for "in vessel" compost collections that started in Findern, Mickleover and Stenson Fields in September 2006 includes a four weeks' closure over the Christmas / New Year period. The intention is to consult residents on the effectiveness of the scheme, including the closure period, and to build the conclusions from the feedback into the expansion of the scheme across the district.*

**Waste minimisation (education / publicity)**

- e) To withdraw the existing side waste collection facility

*The Council's Waste Minimisation and Recycling Plan includes an Action Plan item to review the current policy together with all other waste related procedures. The intention is to produce a report for Members' consideration during this financial year.*

- f) To implement a 'closed lid' wheeled bin policy

*As above.*

- g) Consider options for the kerbside collection of plastics

*The option will be considered as part of the market testing exercise referred to in a) above.*

- h) Ensure that the Waste Minimisation Plan is SMART

*The intention is that it is SMART. However the Action Plans will be reviewed to ensure this.*

- i) To be more innovative and proactive in our publicising and promoting our waste management services and our successes.

*A Communication Plan is being developed to deliver this aim.*

- j) Adopt a higher profile and more proactive school education programme

*This is happening now. In the last two years a recycling Magic Show has toured the district's infant and junior schools, an initiative is being developed for a Theatre Group to tour the secondary schools, an education package has been developed and is being used by schools. A Service*

*Development Proposal has been submitted in this year's budget round to increase the activities further.*

### **Improving the quality of our service to our customers**

- k) In partnership with other contractors, offer a wheeled bin cleaning service

*There are a number of contractors operating in this business. The business is regulated by the Environment Agency. It is suggested that the Council could assist residents by compiling a list of preferred suppliers that meet the Environment Agency's requirements and may be prepared to offer a discounted price on the basis of residents being referred to them by the Council.*

- l) Ensure that the Council's website is regularly updated.

*The web site will be reviewed and procedures maintained to ensure that it is kept up to date.*

- m) Ensure that website application forms can be completed on-line.

*On-line forms are being developed in conjunction with IT.*

- n) Consider 'branding' the waste management service

*It is branded. "Let's kerb it" appears on literature, bins and boxes. However it is acknowledged that more work needs to be done to raise its profile to a similar standing to that of the Clean Team.*

- o) Advertise / promote all waste services to all households

*Residents who receive the "green box" and "brown bin" services receive newsletters twice a year at least. The waste services are exhibited at various locations and events throughout the year. A Service Development Proposal has been submitted in this year's budget round to send a promotional DVD to all householders in the district.*

### **Improving efficiency**

- p) That Planning Services investigates scope for securing developer contributions in relation to planning permissions for residential development, for the purposes of providing necessary new wheeled bins /green boxes.

*The issue will be raised with Planning Services.*

## **Strategic approach to waste management**

- q) Develop our strategy and performance using the existing 'building capacity' initiative as its next project. Concentrate our 'shifting resources' savings into the performance delivery of the service

*Agreed.*

- r) Urgent review the financial implications of our current waste management service in relation to the National Waste Strategy and the County response.

*The financial implications are included in the budget process.*

- s) Press for additional civic amenity sites, in order to serve the rural community

*A letter has been sent recently to Derbyshire County Council, the Authority responsible for the provision of sites in Derbyshire, seeking an increase in the number of sites in South Derbyshire.*

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To examine the issues around the achievement of Best Value Performance Indicator targets for the waste management service

### **3.0 Setting the Scene**

- 3.1 At its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2006, the Environmental & Development Services Committee resolved to ask this Committee to examine the issues around the achievement of the Best Value Performance Indicator targets for aspects of the waste management service
- 3.2 The request had arisen due to the general principles identified in the background report on 'Achieving Targets 2006/09' by this Committee on the 31 July 2006 (Minute Ref. CYS / 4)

### **4.0 Consideration by the Community Scrutiny Committee**

- 4.1 This Committee has considered this matter on 4 occasions as detailed in the table below.

Date / Minute Reference	Detail of discussion
31 July 06 CYS / 4	To consider the request from Environmental & Development Services Committee BVPI 86 (cost per head of waste collection) to be included in the list of waste management performance targets to be scrutinised.
14 Aug 06	Informal meeting to consider a briefing report prepared by the Head of Environmental Services A number of issues raised with the Head of Environmental Services for clarification
30 Aug 06 & 8 Sep 06	Site visits to Rushcliffe Borough Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and Blaby District Council
11 Sep 06 CYS / 14	Consideration of two reports 1. Progress report and identification of issues arising from the briefing report 2. The Council's current plans to develop the Council's waste management service
18 Sep 06	Informal meeting with the Director of Community Services and Head of Environmental Services to clarify a number of issues
19 Sep 06	Informal meeting with Head of Planning Services regarding planning guidance in respect of waste management issues

## **5.0 The Issues**

### **5.1 The following main issues were identified**

- How are recycling centre sites determined?
- How are the types of materials for collection from recycling centres determined?
- The provision of additional Civic Amenity Sites
- More detailed financial information regarding the provision of various waste management services. (For example, green box, blue bag, composting schemes, collection costs from recycling centres etc)
- Details of the Council's waste management contract arrangements
- The performance targets set by the Council in respect of waste management issues
- The targets set in the Waste Minimisation & Recycling Plan (2005 – 2009) lack robustness
- Publicity, education and awareness raising issues, in particular within schools.
- The implications of the National Waste Strategy
- The implications of the County Council's Waste Strategy

## **6.0 Community Scrutiny Committee's Findings**

### **6.1 The findings are summarised within 6 themes below**

#### **Recycling**

- a) Currently householders are provided with a green box for additional recyclable materials. The scheme is has recently been expanded to 33,000 households in the district. The plan is to extend the scheme over the next three years to the remaining 4,000 households. In addition the Council has 81 'bring sites' across the district.
- b) This Committee considers that the existing plans to implement the green box scheme to the remaining households is too slow and it believes it should be possible to accelerate this process, which will help the authority meet top quartile performance targets. However, this may affect the viability of existing 'bring' sites. In the main, the bring sites adequately serve the district except for two possible rural sites

#### **Composting**

- c) The council's 'brown bin' compost scheme has been expanded to 18,000 households in the district. The plan is to extend the scheme over the next four years to the remaining 19,000 households.

- d) The existing brown bin collection scheme operates for 40 weeks per year.
- e) This Committee considers that the existing plans to implement the 'brown bin' compost scheme to the remaining households is too slow and it believes it should be possible to accelerate this process, which will help the authority maintain top quartile performance and help deliver the county wide waste strategy.
- f) By extending the compost collection period, this Committee believes that the amount of household waste would be reduced, as more waste would be composted.

#### **Waste minimisation (education / publicity)**

- g) At present, there is a side waste collection service, and arbitrary restrictions are applied to wheeled bins that have lids not fully closed.
- h) This Committee considers that there are health and safety issues with regards to side waste collections and wheeled bins that have partially open lids. The implementation of the recommendations will help minimise waste.
- i) Currently, there are no kerbside collections of plastics. Therefore, plastics are collected with residual household waste.
- j) Residents have strongly indicated that they would like the Council to offer this service.
- k) The current Waste Minimisation Plan needs to be SMART.
- l) This Committee notes that over the last two years, 24 schools in the district have been made aware of the benefits of recycling and waste minimisation.
- m) Consequently, this Committee believes that the Council should adopt a more innovative and proactive approach to publicising and promoting our waste management services and our successes. Therefore, it should adopt a higher profile school education programme

#### **Improving the quality of our service to our customers**

- n) It is noted that, a wheeled bin cleaning service is not provided.

- o) Therefore, to address the issue of wheeled bin hygiene criticisms from residents, a cleaning service could be offered in partnership with other private contractors
- p) This Committee adjudged the waste management section of the Council's website to be well presented, informative, structured logically and easy to use. However, some pages were out of date and not all application forms can be completed on-line
- q) During our site visits, it was noted that other authorities had very strong 'branding' and advertised and promoted their services extensively.
- r) Therefore, it is considered that a similar approach should be adopted by this Council.

### **Improving efficiency**

- s) Currently, the Council bears the capital costs for the provision of new wheeled bins / green boxes. Since the district is one of the fastest growing areas in Derbyshire, therefore the Council should investigate the scope for securing developer contributions.

### **Strategic approach to waste management**

- t) It is noted that the new National Waste Strategy, and the likely County response is being developed. As a result, there are fundamental implications on the possible impact to our waste management service.
- u) Currently, the County Council provides only one civic amenity site in the district and this is the lowest provision for any district in Derbyshire.
- v) This Committee believes that a strategic review of the whole service, including any financial implications needs to be undertaken

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The Council has identified in its Corporate Plan that 'a cleaner and greener South Derbyshire' is one of its three main priorities. Therefore the waste management service needs to reflect the important position it commands in delivering this priority
- 7.2 The recommendations contained in this report have a mixture of short, medium and longer term actions

7.3 This Committee would like to thank all the Officers and Members who have taken their time to prepare reports and contribute to the discussions, in making this report possible.

## **8.0 Financial Implications**

8.1 None directly from this report, but the Environmental & Developmental Services Committee will need to address any financial implications as set out in the strategic approach section above